



Accessing the Mississippi Department of Human Services Childcare Resources:

- The Child Care Certificate Program is a federally funded program designed to provide parents with child care tuition assistance.
- The State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC) and MDHS have released a joint statement on the future of early childhood in Mississippi, including the future of programs funded by the Federal Child Care and Development Fund.
- The State Plan: A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System outlines an early childhood system underpinned by common case management, a collaborative referral process, and an integrated data system unlike any other in the country. Implementation of Mississippi's early childhood system is a collaborative effort of all state agencies, the office of Governor Bryant, early care and education providers, and the SECAC.
- For more information on each of these topics, visit MDHS.MS.GOV.



FAMILIES FIRST EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Early childhood education encompasses a critical stage of human development, from birth through age eight, that forms the foundation for a child's future health, well-being and learning.



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Introduction

Families First for Mississippi works directly with the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Community College Board to support families across the state by providing early childhood services that help parents and caregivers identify high-quality childcare services and learning experiences.

Through this partnership, Mississippi Early Learning Standards and Guidelines have been revised and updated to ensure that childcare providers have up-to-date and research-based resources for use in individual childcare centers.

- The Mississippi Early Learning Standards and Guidelines:
 - Describe goals for children from birth through age four.
 - Focus on cognitive development in core subjects like literacy, mathematics, science and social studies.
 - Support a play-based approach to learning that includes social, emotional and physical development in children.
- Families First for Mississippi is a partner in the Early Childhood Cross Agency Collaborative, along with Head Start, the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Community College Board, and the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Defining characteristics of high-quality childcare services:

- The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) provides guidance and national standards that help families make the right choice when they are looking for child care centers, preschool or kindergarten.
- Mississippi Department of Human Services provides a childcare provider search that allows families to review information on child care providers prior to choosing a center.

The Early Child Academy through Families First provides customized support.

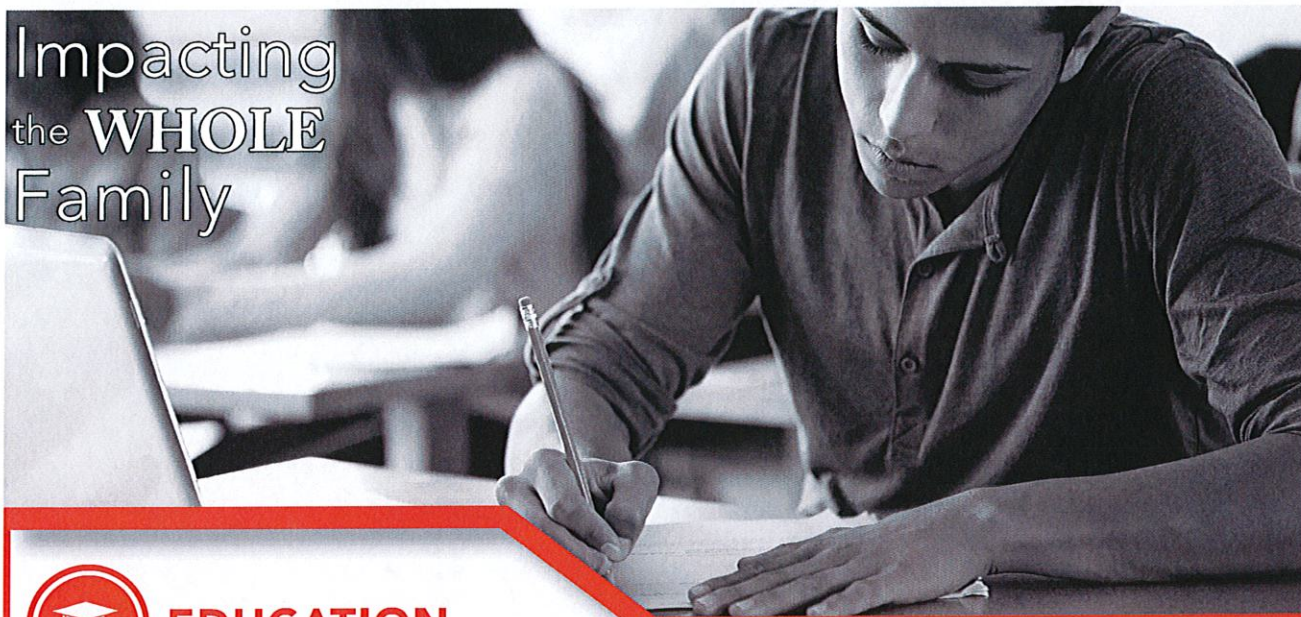
- The mission of the Early Childhood Academy is to provide families and child care providers with ongoing, high-quality technical assistance and professional development through resource and referral services, thus ensuring a nurturing learning environment that promotes readiness.
- The ECA provides onsite instructional coaching and technical assistance.
- Early Childhood Coaches and Professional Development Specialists are located throughout the state of Mississippi, and work directly with childcare providers and families to provide customized support.

Early childhood support through Families First for Mississippi includes:

- Training and professional development sessions for parents and childcare providers
- Providing access to instructional resources (books, toys, games, etc.) for checkout by childcare providers and parents
- Supporting the implementation of the newly revised Mississippi Early Learning Standards and Guidelines



Impacting the **WHOLE** Family



EDUCATION

*"Our diploma program provides
an opportunity for brighter futures."*

We are providing an alternative avenue for at risk high school seniors to obtain an accredited high school diploma as well as adults desiring to earn a high school diploma in a flexible environment.

Families First for Mississippi Diploma Program:

- ♦ Accredited diploma-issuing institution
- ♦ Credits as required by the state department of education
- ♦ Online academic courses
- ♦ Self-paced learning environment



Dr. Nancy New, Co-Executive Director
of Families First for Mississippi

A service provided by Mississippi Community Education Center



FamiliesFirstForMS.org

Partners In Education

The diploma that can be obtained upon completing the Families First High School Diploma Program is issued by New Summit School through its distance learning division.

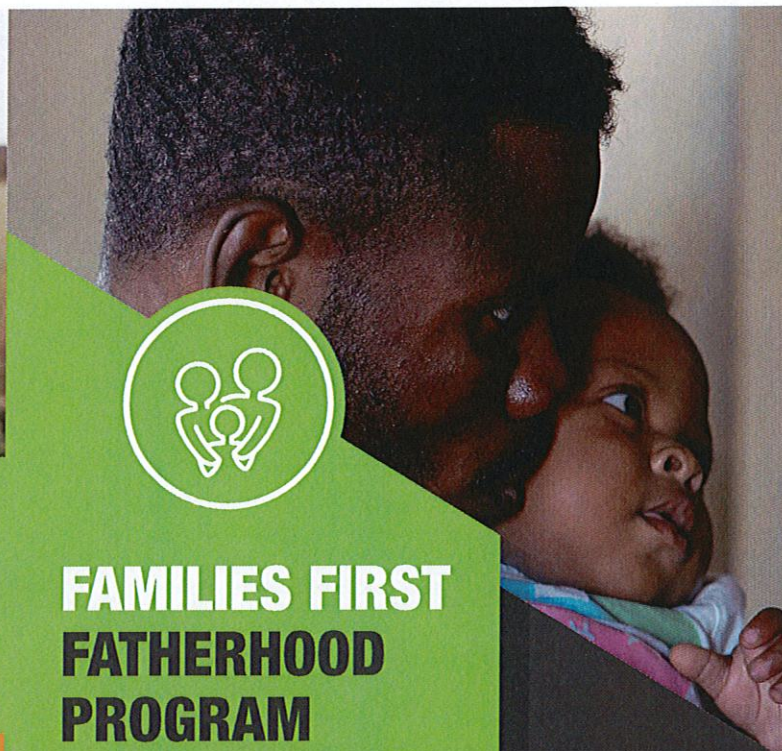
New Learning Resources School District (NLRSD) is accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and AdvancED: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

For more information about Families First High School Diploma, visit
www.FamiliesFirstforMs.org



Program Contact

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Fatherhood Coordinator
(601) 366-6405
fwynn@mscec.org



FAMILIES FIRST FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

Families First Fatherhood Program is a unique program designed to equip fathers with self-awareness, compassion, responsibility and loyalty to create healthy relationships within their families. Families First Fatherhood Program focuses on cultivating healthy habits for positive character development and growth for a well-rounded man and father.



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Philosophy Behind the Program

The philosophy behind the program supports the growth and development of fathers and children as caring and compassionate people who treat themselves, others, and the environment with respect and dignity. This philosophical basis of caring and compassion forms the underlying structure that constitutes the values that are taught in the program.

- Fathering and the 24/7 Dad
- Boyhood to Manhood
- Dealing with Anger
- Knowing Myself
- Family Ties
- Sex, Love, and Relationships
- Power and Control
- Competition
- Improving My Communication Skills
- Fun with the Kids
- Stress, Alcohol, and Work

The purpose of parenting is to protect and prepare children to survive and thrive in the kind of society in which they live.

Fatherless Facts

Did you know that children from a fatherless home are:

- Four times more likely to live in poverty
- More likely to suffer emotional and behavioral problems
- At two times greater risk of infant mortality
- More likely to go to prison
- More likely to commit crime
- Seven times more likely to become pregnant as a teen
- More likely to face abuse and neglect
- More likely to abuse drugs and alcohol
- Two times more likely to suffer obesity
- Two times more likely to drop out of high school

Family Life Skills Classes

Family Life Skills classes are offered to the entire family to assist with everyday needs. Each participant will have an interview with a field educator to discuss concerns and an individual plan will be tailored to fit their needs. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance after completing 10 hours of Family Life Skills classes. The five components of Family Life Skills classes are: Effective Parenting, Healthy Relationships, Conflict Resolution, Soft Skills, and Life Skills.



Impacting the **WHOLE** Family

Over the past 20 years, Families First for Mississippi has successfully served the state of Mississippi by providing services to meet the vast needs of Mississippians that span over generations and cross demographic, cultural and economic backgrounds. We strive to support the family system to create successful employees, provide academic and social opportunities for all Mississippi students, and provide stability for families to flourish successfully across the state of Mississippi.

Services are delivered jointly by two community organizations: The Mississippi Community Education Center (MCEC) and Families First for Mississippi. The unified efforts of both organizations strengthen families of all backgrounds and life circumstances by providing support and services - from parenting classes, educational opportunities, positive youth development, literacy assistance, and workforce and job readiness. Families First for Mississippi offers these services through seminars, workshops, classes and presentations held in schools, community centers, churches, and state agency offices. Families First for Mississippi works diligently to positively impact lives and create hopeful futures for all Mississippians.

The whole family concept involves all ages as well as utilizes partnerships with state of Mississippi agencies and community organizations to fill any gaps and eliminate any duplications between services. Families First for Mississippi's core services stimulate employment through job readiness, support family financial stability, promote literacy, increase graduation

rates, support positive youth development, and promote parenting skills development. In an effort to provide students assistance who are at risk of not graduating, Families First for Mississippi offers courses in a flexible and hassle-free environment as an option to earn a high school diploma. Our courses prepare students for postsecondary institutions, military, and employment opportunities.

As Families First for Mississippi expands on Governor Phil Bryant's Healthy Teens for a Better Mississippi initiative, we look with optimism to a future of hope for the next generation of Mississippi's leaders by nurturing today's teens and students. Teen suicides, pregnancy, cyberbullying, and addictions are all part of the reality of this generation of Mississippi's youth. As a call to action to equip and empower Mississippi's teens to make healthy choices and overcome adversity, Families First for Mississippi along with Governor Phil Bryant's office, Mississippi State Department of Health, and Mississippi Department of Human Services host annual Healthy Teens Rallies in Mississippi. Together we work with the mission to be a community of loyal supporters that will tirelessly work to create a path for a bright and promising future for all Mississippi's youth.

Co-Executive Director of Families First for Mississippi, Dr. Nancy New, explains:

"Our main goal for Families First for Mississippi is to impact the entire family by offering direct services and connecting the dots between all of the Mississippi family programs."

It is crucial to join together the existing services to help accomplish the mission and purpose of Families First for Mississippi. MCEC and Families First for Mississippi are reaching out to other providers such as community colleges, higher education, non-profits, state agencies, churches, schools, businesses, and other leaders in the community in order to bridge the gap.

Common Lifelines:

- Church Members
- Neighbors
- Friends
- Coaches
- Mechanics
- Bankers
- Co-workers
- Repair Persons
- Pastors
- Teachers
- Resource Centers

Make sure you and your family back at home have discussed these types of questions:

- When are bills due each month? How do I pay them?
- Who do I call when my child is sick or cannot attend school/daycare?
- If our primary family vehicle breaks down, who can I call for help? And how can I get to work?
- If the air conditioning/heating at home breaks, who do I call?
- Who is a contact for advice on budgeting?
- Who is the contact at my child's daycare or school if he/she needs help with homework?

Common Community Resources:

Mississippi Access to Care	(844) 822-4622
Entergy Utility Assistance	(800) 368-3749
MS Dept. of Mental Health	(877) 210-8513
MS Dept. of Medicaid	(800) 421-2408
MS Dept. of Human Services	(601) 359-4500



LIFE ON THE ROAD...

About KLLM:

For 50 years, KLLM has been transporting perishable commodities for satisfied customers throughout the country. KLLM offers Over-The-Road, Regional and Dedicated temperature-controlled services throughout the United States and Mexico. KLLM was the first nationwide, temperature-controlled carrier to utilize satellite communications fleet wide. All KLLM trucks, as well as all lease trucks, are linked to our Jackson, Mississippi, headquarters through a satellite communications network. This system allows for monitoring the status and location of every KLLM truck on the road at any given time. It also provides for a two-way communication link between drivers and terminal personnel. This system has allowed us to enhance our service to our customers, our drivers and the entire KLLM system.



Driving is a rewarding career. The most successful drivers and their families have a plan in place for challenges they may encounter at home or while away at work. Families First for Mississippi is committed to assisting KLLM's employees and families in their time of need.



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Stay supportive.



While you are away at work, your family back at home may have challenges to keep a household running smoothly. Stay supportive and remember to express appreciation for the work being done at home while you are working. You and your family must work together as a team to be successful. Try to regularly express your gratitude for those family members back home who may be doing extra, from school work with teenagers, to working while taking care of young children, to doing all the cleaning and housework, alone. Make sure you thank them for their work, as they are appreciative of the great work you are doing, as well.



Stay fueled.

The quality of the food that you eat contributes directly to your ability to stay alert, energized and healthy. Plan ahead by bringing healthy snacks and foods that are convenient to eat while at work, such as fruit, nuts and protein bars. Over-consumption of fast foods can lead to swelling, high-blood pressure and increased risk of heart-related issues.



Stay sharp.

Driving requires alertness, focus, and attention to detail. Your success depends on your awareness. During work breaks, take a few minutes to relax and clear your mind. Try not to look on your phone and just spend a few moments being quiet, which will help improve your focus.

Stay prepared.

Driving is a financially rewarding career. However, there are expenses that you and your family should plan for in advance. The following questions should be considered:



- How much is needed for rent or your mortgage?
- How much will it cost to travel to and from work?
- How much is needed for food each month?
- How much does my family's education/school cost each month?
- How much is needed for utilities at my home?
- How much for medical insurance?
- How much should be in savings for emergencies?
- How much can be saved for holidays, birthdays or special occasions?
- How can I keep track of my family's expenses?

There are many great and free budgeting apps for smartphones and printables online. Try utilizing an app or printable budget, so you and your family can know in advance how much you will need for expenses each month.

Community Support

Families First for Mississippi is committed to assisting KLLM and their employees' families in any way possible. Families First for Mississippi has resources readily available for a variety of circumstances and unplanned challenges that you or your family may experience. Contact our local Families First Resource Center for assistance at 601-366-6405 (Mississippi Community Education Center Main Office). Also, visit our website for more information, www.FamiliesFirstForMS.org

Life can have many challenges and it is important to have a plan in place for medical emergencies and other problems that may arise unexpectedly. Refer to the list on the back page to compile your own set of contacts, for you and your family, that may be needed during unplanned challenges.

Impacting the **WHOLE** Family



LITERACY

"The inability to read has lasting effects on families and individuals from childhood through adulthood."

Families First for Mississippi provides resources to promote high-quality early childhood education and youth literacy. In addition, we provide evidence-based programs for adult literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

Families First for Mississippi literacy programs provide evidence-based remedial reading skills and training for children and adults, individualized curriculum pathways, and skill development in the key areas of literacy:

- ♦ Phonics and phonemic awareness
- ♦ Vocabulary development
- ♦ Reading fluency, including oral reading skills
- ♦ Reading comprehension strategies
- ♦ Writing



Dr. Nancy New, Co-Executive Director
of Families First for Mississippi



Families First for Mississippi hosts center-based programs throughout the state that provide parents and childcare professionals with tools to promote literacy instruction.

These programs include:

- Seminars and training for early childhood professionals on the Mississippi Early Learning Standards and Guidelines
- Technology-based literacy instruction for adults and literacy assessments
- Book drives and supporting literacy campaigns in schools and childcare centers
- Early Childhood Academy Coaches and Resource and Referral Associates that support childcare centers
- Lending libraries at each center location for parents and childcare providers
- Training for parents on literacy strategies to use at home with children

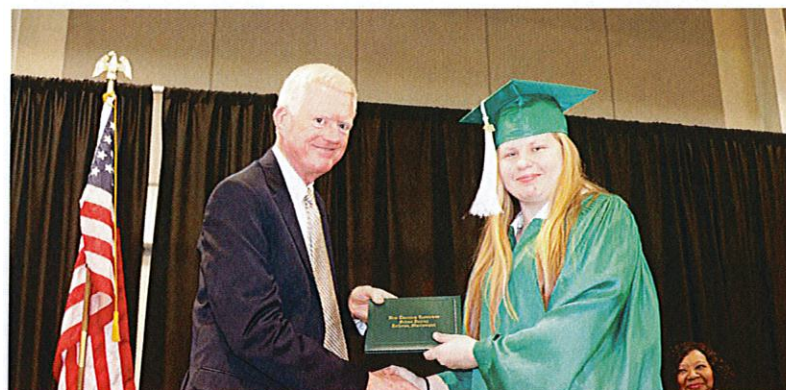
"Building a strong foundation in literacy is the core of success for students and adults. Families First for Mississippi has placed a strategic emphasis on building literacy programs to reach the whole family. Families First for Mississippi believes it is critical to address literacy issues in Mississippi, so that families can be successful."

-Dr. Nancy New, Co-Executive Director
for Families First for Mississippi

A service provided by Mississippi Community Education Center



FamiliesFirstForMS.org



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FAMILIES FIRST ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM



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School District Partnerships

For school-age persons, the program requires a partnership between Families First and a public school in Mississippi, with each entity mutually benefiting from the partnership and committing to help prevent high school dropouts. Primarily, the partnership strives to assist students in graduating from the local public school by first enrolling students of senior classification in Families First for Mississippi's remediation and test prep online courses. Secondary to the goal of drop-out prevention, the program assists students that have exhausted all options in the pursuit of obtaining a high school diploma. This assistance allows students at the end of their senior year to enroll in an alternative high school diploma program to pursue an accredited diploma. Overall, this helps students enter the workforce and earn gainful employment.



Graduation Requirements

The Families First High School Diploma Program offers a 22-credit pathway for a standard high school diploma. This graduation option allows students to transfer accredited courses and take remaining courses as approved and prescribed by New Learning Resources Online (NLRO).

**All participants who enroll through a school district must have met the local school's requirements for state tests in Algebra 1, English II, Biology I, and U.S. History. If these requirements have not been met, school district participants must take each respective course with NLRO.*

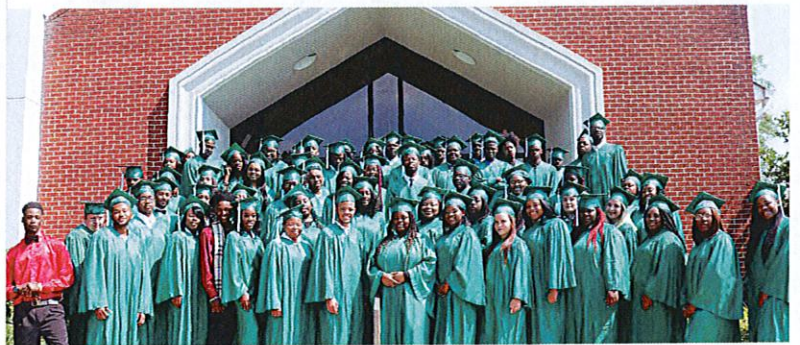
**All participants must take a minimum of 5 credits with NLRO to earn a diploma.*

Center-Based Participants

For those 19 years of age and older who did not obtain a diploma while in high school, Families First for Mississippi offers an opportunity to earn a high school diploma in an online environment. Contact your local Families First Resource Center for more information. www.familiesfirstforms.org

The accredited high school diploma obtained upon completing the Families First for Mississippi High School Diploma Program is issued by New Summit School through its distance learning division, New Learning Resources Online (NLRO).

New Learning Resources School District is accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and AdvancED: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).



Impacting the **WHOLE** Family



PARENTING

"Parenting is one of the hardest things you'll ever do, but also the most rewarding."

Families First for Mississippi is dedicated to impacting the whole family, while meeting the specific needs of individual family members. We offer an array of parenting and life skills classes throughout Mississippi.

Parenting classes include:

- Parenting
- Life skills
- Anger management
- Family unit conflict
- Financial literacy

CLASSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE



Dr. Nancy New, Co-Executive Director of
Families First for Mississippi

Families First for Mississippi has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop the Non-Custodial Fatherhood Program. Approximately half of all children will live in a single-parent household at some point during childhood. Unfortunately, a common pattern is for non-custodial parents to become increasingly detached over time. The Non-Custodial Fatherhood Program is designed to facilitate a sense of responsibility to their child. The program achieves this by offering the following classes:

Non-Custodial Fatherhood classes include:

- Effective parenting
- Healthy relationships
- Conflict resolution
- Soft skills
- Life skills

In addition to offering parenting classes, Families First for Mississippi offers positive life skills topics for success in the workplace and home life.

Life skills topics include:

- Creating a household budget
- Balancing a checkbook
- Managing credit cards and credit
- Savings account and savings
- Paying bills
- Loans (including the dangers of payday loans or title loans)
- Communication skills
- Health and nutrition

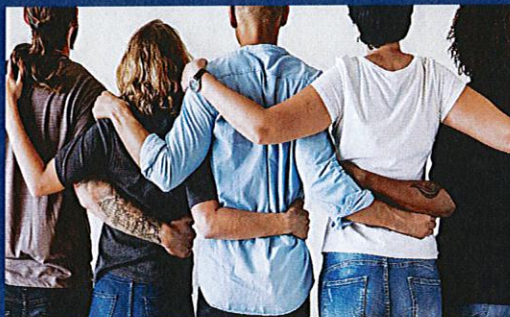
A service provided by Mississippi Community Education Center

FamiliesFirstForMS.org



Common Lifelines:

- Neighbors
- Church Members
- Friends
- Coaches
- Bankers
- Co-Workers
- Pastors
- Teachers
- Families First Resource Centers



Common Community Resources:

Mississippi Community Education Center | Families First for Mississippi

(Fatherhood/Parenting/Life Skills Classes, Resume & Job Readiness Assistance, High School Diploma or GED)

(601) 366-6405

Recovery Consultations, Inc.

John Owen, CEAP, CAS,
Addiction Education Director
(Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services)

(601) 982-5943

MS Dept. of Public Safety

(Driver's License)

(601) 987-1212

Entergy Utility Assistance

(Electricity Bill Assistance)

(800) 368-3749

MS Dept. of Mental Health

(Mental Health, Alcohol, Drug Addiction Services)

(877) 210-8513

MS Division of Medicaid

(Provides Access to Health Coverage)

(800) 421-2408

MS Dept. of Human Services

(Child Support, Workforce Development & Economic Assistance)

(601) 359-4500

MS State Dept. of Health

(Birth Records, Birth and Death Certificates, Vaccinations)

(601) 576-7400

THE NEXT STEP

New beginnings simply start by taking the next, correct step. Families First for Mississippi is here to walk alongside you as you begin a healthy and refreshed journey. We can connect you with resources for housing, employment, educational opportunities and efforts for reconciliation with your loved ones. On this journey ahead, know that you are not alone. Families First for Mississippi is here every step of the way to provide access to resources for second chances and new beginnings.



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The Next Step Begins with Your Education

To receive the best possible job opportunity, receiving a high school diploma can provide new opportunities for career choices. At Families First for Mississippi, we can help you obtain an accredited high school diploma in a flexible environment. In addition to taking classes remotely from a computer, Families First for Mississippi has resource centers located throughout the state of Mississippi, where you can complete required courses in computer labs free of charge. For more information, call 601-366-6405 or visit www.familiesfirstforms.org.

Accredited diploma-issuing institution

Credits as required by The Mississippi Department of Education

Online academic courses

Self-paced learning environment

A diploma can be obtained upon completing a

High School Diploma Program issued by New Summit School through its distance learning division. New Learning Resources

School District (NLRSD) is accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and AdvancED: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).



The Next Step Begins with Your Resume

The job application process is often overwhelming. Families First for Mississippi wants to help you become successful by connecting you with new and existing employment opportunities. We provide resume and job search assistance, interviewing skills, professional clothes closets, and career planning.



The Next Step Begins with Your Personal Development

Your past doesn't have to define your future. At Families First for Mississippi, we believe everyone deserves a second chance to reach their full potential. Each day provides an opportunity to begin anew. You will begin to develop healthy habits for your positive character development and growth. Families First for Mississippi offers classes that are free-of-charge to help parents develop healthy habits from effective co-parenting, father's rights and responsibilities, the realities of child support, and creating and sticking to a budget.



The Next Step Begins with Your Recovery

Your personal story may be filled with chapters of sorrow and loss. Sometimes in those times of hopelessness, you may have turned to alcohol or drugs or been overwhelmed with depression. Your life can begin to be rebuilt through emotional and physical recovery and spiritual support. Through offering Adult Addiction Education Program free of charge, Families First for Mississippi offers resources to begin the process of healing and recovery for those suffering with addiction.



Community Support

Families First for Mississippi is here to connect those suffering from addiction to the adequate services they need to help support addiction recovery. For more information on Families First for Mississippi Adult Addiction Education & Recovery Program, visit www.familiesfirstforms.org/adult-addiction-recovery or call 601-982-5943.

Impacting the **WHOLE** Family



WORKFORCE & JOB READINESS

"Workforce training and job readiness provides career pathways that match your strengths and interests."

Families First for Mississippi offers employment classes, job fairs, resources, and workshops on many topics to help employees and their families have a successful work-life balance. This **FREE SERVICE** allows participants the ability to achieve economic security and self-sufficiency.

Families First provides answers to the following questions:

- What job(s) exist that are geared towards my education, skills, and experience?
- What job openings are available?
- What is the pay and how do I apply?



Dr. Nancy New, Co-Executive Director
of Families First for Mississippi



"Managing Life with Work"

The job application process is often overwhelming. Families First for Mississippi wants to help you become successful by connecting with new and existing employment opportunities in entry level positions.

Families First programs will provide the following for pre-employment:

- Individualized career assessment that evaluates core workplace skills and interests
- Relevant information for potential job openings
- Referrals for those who lack a high school diploma
- Career pathways that match their strengths and interests
- Resume building, job search, application, interviewing, professional clothes closets, and career planning

Families First programs for post-employment geared towards:

- Parenting
- Conflict resolution
- Stress management
- Time management
- Professional behavior
- Managing your paycheck
- Saving for your future
- Handling life's demands
- Setting goals & priorities
- Literacy education

A service provided by Mississippi Community Education Center

COMPLETE² COMPETE

One Degree Better

Helping Mississippi Adults
Complete Their Degrees

Vita Michel Tillman
Jackson State University 2019

ACHIEVING PERSONAL GOALS



"I sat out for about 10 years. The C2C program helped me to get my college degree... and I got a job offer yesterday."

- Krystal Epps-Austin
Jackson State University, 2019

\$22K **Salary increase**
average with a bachelor's degree*



\$11K Average salary increase with an associate degree*

*Source: Bureau of Labor

CHANGING LIVES



"My C2C Coach made getting my degree easier than I imagined. She showed me exactly what I needed, and helped motivate me to finish."

- Beci Teasley
Co-Lin Community College, 2018

471 **Associate degrees**
issued through C2C*



15K+ Mississippi adults with enough credits for an associate degree

*As of 6/2019

BECOMING ONE DEGREE BETTER



"You are not left on your own through the C2C program. There's always someone that will help you."

- Traver S. Jung,
Mississippi State University, 2019

695 **Bachelor's degrees**
issued through C2C*



1.8K+ Mississippi adults with enough credits for a bachelor's degree

*As of 6/2019

PROVIDING A BRIGHT FUTURE



"If you have an unfinished degree, I would definitely recommend the C2C program. It was very easy, very painless."

- Barry Pittman
University of Southern Mississippi, 2019

694 **Enrolled Students**
currently*



2,038 Total Mississippi adults that have enrolled through the C2C program*

*As of 6/2019

See how close you are at www.MSC2C.org.